

## NOTES &amp; NEWS

Note on  
an Unusual Pacific Coast Cephalopod

BY

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THE DEPARTMENT OF INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY, California Academy of Sciences, recently received 2 specimens of an unusual Pacific Coast octopod, *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* Chun, 1903, from Robert R. Talmadge of Eureka, California. Both were trawled by a commercial "drag boat," the M/V *Ina* (Capt. Jim Riley), working out of Eureka. The first specimen was taken in 450 fathoms in Eel River Canyon off Eureka, April 1969, and is the larger of the two, requiring a gallon-capacity jar as a container. The second specimen was taken in 380 fathoms off Trinidad, Humboldt County, California, from the stomach of a black cod, August 1970, and is smaller. Both specimens are in such bad condition that no measurements are possible. Identification was confirmed by Dr. Takashi Okutani of the Tokai Regional Fisheries Research Laboratory, Tokyo, Japan, who was a recent Academy visitor.

The only published Pacific Coast record for this species is based on *Cirroteuthis macrope* Berry, 1911, from 2113-2259 fathoms, off Santa Catalina Island, California (2 specimens); U. S. Fish Commission Station 4393, collected 30 March 1904. Dr. Grace PICKFORD (1946) in a comprehensive report on *Vampyroteuthis* includes Berry's species in the synonymy of *V. infernalis*, which has been listed under other names as well.

## Literature Cited

BERRY, SAMUEL STILLMAN

1911. Preliminary notices of some new Pacific cephalopods. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 40(1838): 589-592 (31 May 1911)  
1912. A review of the Cephalopoda of western North America. Bull. U. S. Bur. Fisheries 1 (XXX), Doc. 761: 267-336; pls. 32-56; text figs. 1-16 (24 July 1912)

PICKFORD, GRACE E.

1946. *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* Chun - an archaic dibranchiate cephalopod. 1. Natural history and distribution. Dana Report 29: 1-40 Carlsberg Foundation

Notice about a Revised Edition of  
SEASHELLS OF TROPICAL WEST AMERICA  
by A. MYRA KEEN

Extended coverage has enlarged the revised edition of this book to almost twice the size of the first edition. The southern limit now takes in northwestern Peru and the offshore islands. Deep-water and microscopic mollusks are cited, as well as mollusks without shells. The book thus is an attempt to list all of the described marine mollusks of the Panamic province (except for certain cephalopods). Altogether over 3300 species are listed, of which 2430 are gastropods. Most of the forms larger than 5 mm in length are figured, and sample illustrations are given for the smaller forms. The largest family proves to be the Pyramidellidae, with 352 species. Second come the Turridae with 300; text and illustrations for these have been supplied by Dr. James McLean. Other portions of the text of the book have been contributed by several colleagues.

Not only has the number of pages in the revised edition doubled, to around 1100, but the number of color plates increased from 10 to 22; so also has the estimated price, which is predicted to be around \$25.00. Stanford University Press is scheduling publication for late August.

Your editor is pleased with the approaching publication of this book, the first edition of which has so stimulated research in the geographical area covered by it that the larger size of the new edition became necessary. And while some persons might think that the price is higher, in actuality it is really lower: double number of pages, more than double the number of color plates and, in spite of the much higher costs of labor and paper, only double the original price. We foresee a further stimulation in the research activity in the somewhat expanded area as a direct consequence of this book's effect.

Book dealers are prepared to accept advance orders!

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First International Congress  
of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology

The Society of Systematic Zoology and the International Association for Plant Taxonomy have joined forces in sponsoring a major mid-term Congress of a botanical/zoological interaction at the international level. Thus, the First International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology will be held at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, in August of 1973.